

this afternoon. On the wharf at the foot of the slope waited Col. Harrison J. Dodge, resident superintendent of the estate, and women of the association to welcome the visitors as they landed from launches. A cluster of secret service men and National Guardsmen were posted nearby. Secretary Daniels stepped ashore first, followed by M. Viviani, Secretary Balfour, Marshal Joffre and his staff, the Cabinet, including Secretary McAdoo and Mr. McAdoo's son, and the others until the whole party was gathered on the wharf. The Marshal was blue-eyed and red-capped, as usual. Two little French soldiers, Corporal Pina and Private Andrieu, had the great honor of carrying the bronze palm to the tomb. The Marshal himself so ordered it. It was his way of showing his trust in the police. In their bright blue uniforms, Pina and Andrieu marched along with the palm between them, looking neither to right nor to left, one of the ugliest moments of their lives.

Up the walk which Washington laid out with the precision of an engineer, but whose original stones have long since been replaced with bricks, Secretary Daniels and Mr. Balfour led the little procession moving slowly to the tomb. They stopped beneath cedars and even more which, when Washington had his graves planted two years before he died and at a time when he had already chosen this spot for his grave.

Flags are Entombed.
All about shrubs and flowering trees were in full bloom. The purple wisteria overhanging the tomb and competing with deep English ivy for mastery there was at its best. April 30, 1917. The iron bars through which the two marble sarcophagi of George and Martha Washington are visible to any person who passes that way were hung the American flag with the flag of Britain and of France, all equal in size, on either side just above the words cut into the stone. Within this enclosure rest the remains of General George Washington.

The company pressed close together in front of the tomb. The little speeches that followed were marked by an air of introduction. Secretary Daniels simply moved his hand and M. Viviani, Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the French Council of Ministers, stepped forth and with his back to the tomb spoke in French without once raising his voice, but indicating by the rise and fall of his clenched right and the emotion that possessed him. He said:

"We could not remain longer in Washington without accomplishing this glorious pilgrimage. In this spot lies all that is mortal of a great hero. Close by the spot is the modest abode where Washington rested after the tremendous labor of achieving for his nation the emancipation. In this spot meet the admiration of the whole world and the veneration of the American people. In this spot rise before us the glorious memories left by the soldiers of France led by Rochambeau and Lafayette. A descendant of the latter, my friend M. de Chambrun, accompanied me. And I entered this place with a sense of satisfaction for my conscience to be satisfied to render this homage to our ancestors in the presence of my colleagues and friend Mr. Balfour, who so nobly represents his great nation. By thus coming to lay here the respectful tribute of every English mind he shows, in this historic moment of communion which France has willed, that nations that live for liberty can do."

Last Career of America.

"When we contemplate in the distant past the luminous presence of Washington, in nearer times the majestic figure of Abraham Lincoln, when we respectfully salute the president Wilson, the worthy heir of these great memories, we at once measure the vast career of the American people. It is because the American people proclaimed and won for the nation the right to govern itself, it is because it proclaimed and won the equality of all men that the free American people at the hour marked by fate has been enabled with unflinching force to carry its action beyond the seas. It is because it was resolved to extend its action still further that Congress was enabled to obtain within the space of a few days the vote of consecration and to proclaim the necessity for a national army in the full splendor of civil peace. In the name of France I salute the young army which will share in our common glory."

"While paying this supreme tribute to the memory of Washington I do not diminish the effect of my words which I turn my thoughts to the memory of so many unnamed heroes. I ask you before this tomb to bow in earnest meditation and all the fervor of piety before all the soldiers of the allied nations who for nearly three years have been fighting under different flags for the same ideal."

Hommage to All Heroes.

"I beg you to address the homage of your hearts and souls to all the heroes, born to live in happiness, in the tranquil pursuit of their labors, in the enjoyment of all human affections, who went into battle with virile cheerfulness and gave themselves up not to death alone, but to the eternal silence that closes over those whose sacrifice remains unnamed. In the full knowledge that save for those who loved their names would disappear with their bodies. Their monument is in our hearts. Not the living alone greet us here. The ranks of the dead themselves rise to surround the soldiers of liberty."

"At this solemn hour in the history of the world, while saluting from this sacred mound the final victory of justice, I send to the republic of the United States the greetings of the French republic."

M. Viviani's words were not translated then and there. That was unnecessary. Even those who recognized only the names of Washington, Rochambeau, Lafayette, Lincoln and Wilson were well aware of what they were hearing from a man whose eloquence is byword in France.

M. Viviani stepped back. Mr. Balfour, hat in hand, stepped out from the circle and said:

"My friend Mr. Viviani, in phrases burning with emotion and expressed with eloquence, has not only paid a tribute to the great hero who lies buried here but he has brought our thoughts down to the present crisis, the greatest crisis in the world's history, and to those who have lost their lives—those of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Serbia, Rumania, Portugal, Japan, Montenegro—fighting for what they believed to be the cause of liberty. Their can be no more war here and no more words of liberty could have greater meaning and be more appropriate than"

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here at the tomb of Washington. It is not proposed to make a speech; that has been done by a master of speech."

Joffre's Speech Short.

Bowing to M. Viviani, Mr. Balfour retired to his place in the group about the tomb, and now it was M. Joffre who stood before the pilgrims to summarize in French which makes only thirty-four words in English his feeling and the purpose of his journey to Mount Vernon. On the breast of his dark blue coat were four medals of the many that he has earned—the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, conferred by King George of England; the Croix de Guerre of France and the Military Medal, which any private French soldier may receive for a heroic deed, but which is only given to generals for extraordinary achievement—the supreme insignia of military endeavor. He held his red cap in his plumed right hand. He spoke without movement of the hands, with scarcely an inflection of the voice, in low but penetrating tones. He said:

"In the French army all venerate the name and memory of Washington, and respectfully salute here the great soldier and lay upon his tomb the palm we offer our soldiers who have died for their country."

In the Pantheon of his own Paris, at the tomb of Napoleon, in Westminster Abbey, all so different from the simple country burial place of Washington, soldiers have been laid when pulled at the last strings no more irretrievably than did the short words of Marshal Joffre on this American spot today.

Example of Washington.
Just as brief was the welcome phrased by Col. Stewart on behalf of the Mother of Presidents. He closed with a hope that "the example of Washington may be an inspiration to the great democracies in the struggle in which the United States is now entering."

Only a few minutes had passed. The two little coastal French soldiers stepped forth and handed Marshal Joffre the French palm. Steeping low because of the smallness of the iron gate which had been thrown open and behind the gate of which, leaning by his presence, an appropriate touch to the occasion, beamed "Capitaine" Sims, a negro soldier of the tomb, the Marshal received the enclosure with Lieut. de Lemaun, one of his aids, followed by the two bearers. They placed the palm with its radiant tricolor ribbons on the sarcophagus which welcomed them.

It was now Mr. Balfour's turn. Taking the British wreath from the two aides of the Mayflower, who had carried it up the hill, he stepped into the tomb with them. Bridges, head of the military division of the British mission. Being much taller than Marshal Joffre, stooping was more difficult, but they got through with dignity and laid their memorial at the head of the sarcophagus, resting against the wall. In his hand Balfour carried the inscription he had written. He laid it on the wreath, where it remained plainly visible from without, and withdrew with Gen. Bridges.

Recorded by Women.

In the procession from the tomb to the house M. Viviani was escorted by Miss Harriet Clayton Comstock, regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the United States, and Miss Charles Harrison, regent of Pennsylvania. They passed the little building where is housed the Washington family coach. As they entered the courtyard at the rear of the mansion Mr. Balfour, giving about him, remarked that the scene was "very like that of an English mansion."

Presently Col. Dodge had under his arm a guest book in which distinguished visitors have written their names. At the head of a fresh page were written "Arthur James Balfour" and "M. Joffre." The Marshal lingered longest in the Lafayette room, and passed from portrait to portrait reading the inscriptions and exchanging eager comment with his staff officers. He caught sight at the foot of the main staircase of the key to the battle affixed to a wall. It was one of Lafayette's many gifts to his friend Washington.

Oxford to Honor Dr. van Dyke.

LONDON, April 29.—Oxford University will confer on May 8 the honorary degree of doctor of civil law on Henry van Dyke, the former American Minister at The Hague.

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CONGRESS VICTORY PLEASES ENTENTE

Conscription Law Was Hardly Expected by England and France.

BIG AID TO THE LATTER

It Is Hoped Roosevelt Will Get Authority to Raise Division.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, April 29.—The English and French morning newspapers did not know that the Senate had passed the conscription bill, but they announced the action of the House in bulletins. The evening papers to-day announced with great satisfaction the action of the Senate.

This legislation is regarded in France and England as perhaps more important than the American declaration of a state of war. Hereafter it had not been generally realized that American opinion was strong enough for such legislation to pass. It was generally believed that a conscription bill could not be passed until experience had convinced America that the volunteer system could not succeed, which would be too late to help much in winning the war.

The passage of the conscription measure by such emphatic majorities is commented upon here as an indication more than anything else of the depth of American determination, and the certainty that the United States will be a first class figure in the conflict. It is especially gratifying because under the terms of the bill the United States will be able to send troops by the time the French begin to decline in man power. This decline is likely to reach its most dangerous point five or six months hence, and thus American troops will, in effect, become the reserves for the French army as the French become the reserves for the American Revolution of the reserves for Gen. Washington at the war's most critical stage.

The announcement that the Senate had passed the Roosevelt division proposal is especially interesting because there is intense anxiety to see American troops in France as soon as possible for the moral effect on the French and all the Allies. The Congressional situation in Washington is not understood, but it is hoped that Col. Roosevelt will get authority to bring the division quickly. Thousands of Americans in England are anxious to join Col. Roosevelt and assist all the Americans with the British, Canadian and French forces left the same.

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sects in the conflict are the same as theirs. The votes given yesterday for methodical and active military preparation, together with the collaboration which is being established at Washington between the different departments of the American Administration and the Allies' missions are hardly what the Germans anticipated.

"The fresh measures in preparation by the German Chancellor, in the form of an exposition next month of moderate peace terms, will run foul once again of the thought of the domination of the American people and their President to establish a world peace and a society of nations by defeating autocracies. German sophistry will not be able to divide American opinion any more than it will be able to disrupt the union of the Allies."

"France is profoundly touched by the reception America has given the French mission," says the *Journal des Debats*. "The great American democracy desired to pay homage to the heroic virtues which were perhaps unsuspected and of which we have furnished visible evidence, and it found all the more pleasure in so doing in that it did everything possible to prevent this war, which we find ourselves defending civilization."

"We do not pretend to have been so admirable as our friends would have us believe but we have the consciousness of having done our best under conditions that we did not choose and in the face of an enemy that is never stopped by any of the scruples that have at times made us hesitate and paralyzed our action."

"We have no need to excuse ourselves for not having single handedly downed the common enemy of humanity. The ties that are being consolidated to-day under the banner of a just cause are at the same time tested and powerful; they will defy the centuries."

DE POTESTAD OFFERS SWORD.

Son of Ex-Spanish Minister Seeks U. S. Officer's Commission.

BALTIMORE, April 29.—R. E. de Potestad, son of the late Marquis de Potestad-Furness, formerly Spain's Minister to the United States, has applied for a commission in the United States Army. He is a member of the United States Marine Corps from Maryland and has previously been accepted by the Army Examining Board at Johns Hopkins University.

Lieut. Elliott, chief examining officer, said that although Mr. de Potestad is past 32 he is the finest specimen of manhood that has been examined here and has the physique of a man of 20. Mr. de Potestad's father represented the Spanish Government during the settlement of the Cuban claims after the Spanish-American war. He died in Switzerland several months ago. His son has a large estate near this city and is an American citizen.

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